DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

1807 13[™] STREET, SUITE 103 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811 (916) 445-8448 FAX (916) 323-0280 www.wcb.ca.gov

NOTICE OF MEETING

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

September 8, 2009 1:00 P.M. 1/ State Capitol, Room 112 Sacramento, California 95814

FINAL AGENDA ITEMS

TEM NO.	PAGE NO.
1. Roll Call	1
2. Funding Status — Informational	2
3. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4—5)	6
*4. Approval of Minutes — May 28, 2009	6
*5. Recovery of Funds	6

^{*} Proposed Consent Calendar

^{1/} These facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities

ITEM NO. PAGE NO.

6. Honey Lake Wildlife Area Pipeline, Scope Change, Lassen County

\$0.00 8

To consider a change of scope for a cooperative project with Ducks Unlimited, Inc., and the Department of Fish and Game, to allow for the installation of an additional 4,500± feet of pipeline to improve water delivery to 85± acres of uplands and 80± acres of wetlands habitat on the Fleming Unit of the Department of Fish and Game's Honey Lake Wildlife Area in Lassen County.

Oroville Wildlife Area Exchange, 7. **Butte County**

\$0.00

9

To consider a proposed exchange between the Department of Fish and Game and the Feather River Recreation and Park District, involving a 100± acre portion of the Department's Oroville Wildlife Area on the east side of the Feather River, and 70± acres of the District's holdings on the west side of the river, to make management of these properties more efficient and cost-effective and to assure continued public recreational opportunities including disabled fishing access near the City of Oroville, in Butte County.

8. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (Presentation), Yolo County

\$0.00

11

The Department of Fish and Game will give an informational presentation on the 15,830± acre Yolo Bypass Area, located in the north Delta within the Yolo Basin, a historically significant wetland area in the California's Central Valley. The success of the Wildlife Area is the result of a collaborative effort by many partners, principally the Department of Fish and Game, the Yolo Basin Foundation, and the Wildlife Conservation Board.

Closed Session 9.

N/A

11

The Board may meet in closed executive session pursuant to California Government Code Section 11126(e)(1) to discuss pending litigation, Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley v. California Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Board, et al., Riverside County, Fourth District Court of Appeal, Case No. E045894 (Riverside County Superior Court Case No. RIC477696) (California Environmental Quality Act).

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

1807 13[™] STREET, SUITE 103 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811 (916) 445-8448 FAX (916) 323-0280 www.wcb.ca.gov

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD

September 8, 2009 1:00 P.M. State Capitol, Room 112 Sacramento, California 95814

1. Roll Call

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBERS

Jim Kellogg, Member
President, Fish and Game Commission
Karen Finn, Program Budget Manager
Vice, Michael C. Genest, Member
Director, Department of Finance
Donald Koch, Member
Director, Department of Fish and Game

JOINT LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Senator Abel Maldonado Senator Fran Pavley Senator Patricia Wiggins

Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee Assembly Member Jared Huffman Assembly Member Ira Ruskin

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

John P. Donnelly

2.	Funding Status — Informational	
(a)	2009-10 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget ActLess Previous Board AllocationsUnallocated Balance	
(b)	2008-09 Wildlife Restoration Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (2009-10 Reappropriation) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	
(c)	2006-07 General Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget ActLess Previous Board AllocationsLess 2009-10 Budget Act ReversionUnallocated Balance	(\$3,465,000.00)
(d)	2009-10 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget ActLess Previous Board AllocationsUnallocated Balance	(\$0.00)
(e)	2008-09 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget ActLess Previous Board AllocationsUnallocated Balance	(\$405,000.00)
(f)	2007-08 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget ActLess Previous Board AllocationsUnallocated Balance	(\$13,270,192.68)
(g)	2006-07 Habitat Conservation Fund Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget ActLess Previous Board AllocationsUnallocated Balance	(\$9,332,884.32)
(h)	1999-00 Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget	i
	Continuously Appropriated [Sec. 5096.350 (a)(1), (2), (4) & (7)].	\$36,100,000.00

	Less Previous Board Allocations	,
(i)	2004-05 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget (2007-08 Reappropriation)	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$409,302.00)
(j)	Chapter 983, Statutes of 2002	
	Budget Act (2009-10 Reappropriation) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$4,611,364.58)
(k)	2001-02 California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Coastal Protection Bond Fund Capital Outlay Budget	l Parks and
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 5096.650) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$182,962,544.00)
(I)	2004-05 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget (Section	79568)
	Budget Act (2008-09 Reappropriation) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$13,089,784.38)
(m)	2002-03 Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Fund of 2002 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Continuously Appropriated (Sections 79565 and 79572), including Chapter 81, Statutes of 2005	(\$21,000,000.00) (\$21,000,000.00) (\$4,000,000.00) (\$3,100,000.00) (\$17,688,000.00) (\$5,150,000.00) (\$1,000,000.00) (\$548,474,159.16)

(n)	2009-10 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	
(o)	2008-09 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outle Budget	ay
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	
(p)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (San Joaquin River Conservancy Projects) Less Previous Board Allocations	
(q)	2009-10 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outle Budget	ay
	Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055c) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$0.00)
(r)	2008-09 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055c) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$25,000.00)
(s)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (NCCP Section 75055c) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$13,721,722.00)

(t)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(1)) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$2,176,768.00)
(u)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Out Budget	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(2)) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$1,298,444.00)
(v)	2007-08 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Budget Act (Section 75055(d)(4)) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$1,405,600.00)
(w)	2006-07 Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 Capital Outlay Budget	
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055a) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	(\$25,000.00)
	Continuously Appropriated (Section 75055b) Less Previous Board Allocations Unallocated Balance	. (\$16,454,008.50)
	RECAP OF FUND BALANCES	
	Wildlife Restoration Fund (a) and (b)General Fund (c)	
	Habitat Conservation Fund (d), (e), (f) and (g) Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coasta	\$59,700,963.00
	Protection Bond Fund (h)	
	and Coastal Protection Bond Fund (i), (j) and (k)	. \$100,816,789.42
	Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (I) and (m)	
	(s), (t), (u), (v) and (w)	

RECAP OF NATURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2000

Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000 Chapter 113, Statutes of 2000 and Chapter 715, Statutes of 2004

Total Tax Credits Available	\$100,000,000.00
Less Previously Awarded Tax Credits	(48,598,734.00)
Balance of Tax Credits Available	•

Note: The Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program is suspended effective June 30, 2008.

- 3. Proposed Consent Calendar (Items 4 − 5)
- *4. Approval of Minutes May 28, 2009 Meeting
- *5. Recovery of Funds

The following projects previously authorized by the Board are now completed and some have balances of funds that can be recovered and returned to their respective funds. It is recommended that the following totals be recovered and that the projects be closed.

\$0.00 to the General Fund

\$19,429.00 to the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund

\$5,624.00 to the Habitat Conservation Fund

\$271,119.21 to the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe
Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection
Fund

GENERAL FUND

San Pedro Creek Fish Passage Improvement, San Mateo County

Allocated \$300,000.00 Expended <u>-300,000.00</u> Balance for Recovery \$0.00

Total General Fund \$0.00

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, AND COASTAL PROTECTION BOND FUND

Fieldstone Habitat Conservation Plan, San Diego County

Allocated \$10,000.00 Expended -0.00 Balance for Recovery \$10,000.00 Ramona Grasslands, Expansion 3, San Diego County

Allocated \$5,000.00 Expended -0.00 Balance for Recovery \$5,000.00

Western Riverside County MSHCP, Expansion 4, Riverside County

Allocated \$105,000.00 Expended <u>-100,571.00</u> Balance for Recovery \$4,429.00

Total Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Fund

\$19,429.00

HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND

Sutter Creek Riparian Restoration, Amador County

Allocated \$25,000.00 Expended -25,000.00 Balance for Recovery \$0.00

Truckee Basin (Perazzo Meadows), Sierra County

Allocated \$765,000.00 Expended <u>-759,376.00</u> Balance for Recovery \$5,624.00

Total Habitat Conservation Fund

\$5,624.00

CALIFORNIA CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR, SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, AND COASTAL PROTECTION FUND

Battle Creek Wildlife Area Bridge Replacement, Shasta County

Allocated \$154,550.00 Expended <u>-154,550.00</u> Balance for Recovery \$0.00

DFG Land Management Plan, Central Coast Region, Monterey County

Allocated \$148,000.00 Expended <u>-146,356.59</u> Balance for Recovery \$1,643.41

DFG Land Management Plans, Eastern Sierra-Inland Desert Region, Riverside and Mono Counties

Allocated \$75,000.00 Expended <u>-35,000.00</u> Balance for Recovery \$40,000.00 DFG Land Management Plans, Sacramento Valley-Central Sierra Region, Yolo and Sacramento Counties

 Allocated
 \$320,000.00

 Expended
 -317,084.20

 Balance for Recovery
 \$2,915.80

DFG Land Management Plans, San Joaquin Valley-Southern Sierra Region, Fresno, Madera and Kern Counties

Allocated \$210,000.00 Expended <u>-4,000.00</u> Balance for Recovery \$206,000.00

Gabilan Ranch, San Benito/Monterey County

Allocated \$2,005,000.00 Expended <u>-2,001,632.00</u> Balance for Recovery \$3,368.00

Rails to Trails, Modoc Line, Modoc/Lassen County

Allocated \$420,000.00 Expended <u>-402,808.00</u> Balance for Recovery \$17,192.00

Total California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Fund \$271,119.21

6. Honey Lake Wildlife Area Pipeline, Scope Change, Lassen County

\$0.00

This proposal is to consider a change of scope on a cooperative project with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. (DU) and the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) that will allow for the installation of an additional 4,500± feet of pipeline, to improve water delivery to 85± acres of uplands and 80± acres of wetland habitat on the Fleming Unit of the DFG's Honey Lake Wildlife Area (Wildlife Area), in Lassen County.

The Wildlife Area receives water from a variety of sources: surface water from braided channels of the Susan River, agricultural tailwater from adjoining agricultural lands and groundwater from several wells on site. Even so, in most years water is very limited and most surface water is only available from early March to mid-June, normally requiring DFG to use expensive well water during the remainder of the year. In response to these needs, the Wildlife Conservation Board (Board) approved a project in November, 2008 to install approximately 8,000 feet of water supply pipelines to service 140± acres of seasonal wetlands and 240± acres of uplands. That project was bid in the spring of 2009. As a result of low prices for plastic pipe and fierce competition among contractors, the project bids came in below the estimated project costs. The DFG is now requesting the Board use remaining approved grant funds (approximately \$109,000.00) to extend the pipeline further in order to provide low cost water

delivery to additional acreage. DU engineers determined that there should be sufficient funds remaining to extend the pipeline 4500± feet to the east, providing water to another 85± acres of uplands and 80± acres of wetlands.

DU has committed an additional \$1,320.00 for project planning and development, and the DFG will contribute \$9,220.00 to prepare and seed the additional upland areas and for project oversight. Items provided in this change of scope will include pipeline and valves; preparation and seeding of upland fields; and project design, construction supervision and administration.

The Honey Lake valley, including the Wildlife Area, provides crucial habitat for many species of wetland, riparian and upland grassland dependent species, both migratory and resident. The new pipeline will allow the DFG to provide improved breeding habitat for northern pintails, mallards, pheasants and meadowlarks among others. In the fall, thousands of migrating birds that stop in the valley will also benefit from the project, including American widgeon, gadwall, white-fronted geese, dowitchers and sandpipers. Antelope frequent the agricultural and upland areas on the Wildlife Area all year long. Special status species expected to benefit include the white faced ibis and sandhill cranes, both of which frequently forage on site.

The DFG has reviewed this proposal and requested that the Board approve the proposed change of scope. The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Class 4 of Categorical Exemptions, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15304, as a minor alteration to land. The DFG has filed the appropriate Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse, and subject to approval by the Board, the appropriate Notice of Exemption will be filed by Board staff.

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this change of scope as proposed; authorize staff to enter into appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

7. Oroville Wildlife Area Exchange, Butte County

\$0.00

This proposal is to consider an exchange of 100± acres of State-owned property on the east bank of the Feather River at Oroville, in Butte County, for 70± acres of land owned by the Feather River Recreation and Park District (FRRPD), located on the west side of the river below Oroville and adjacent to the main portion of the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) 11,870± acre Oroville Wildlife Area.

The State-owned 100± acre property was acquired in the mid-1980's via an exchange with Matthews Ready-Mix Corp., in Marysville. The site has been managed under agreement with FRRPD since 2001 and is adjacent to its Riverfront Park. The County-owned exchange parcel represents an inholding in the Wildlife Area whose development could severely impact existing

management. In brief, the proposed transfers will make management of both properties more efficient and cost-effective and assure that continued public recreational opportunities are maximized.

The State property includes Wildlife Conservation Board (Board)-funded recreational improvements developed on it, most notably fishing access improvements, including parking, restrooms and a mobility-impaired fishing pier located at one of the several ponds along the river. The remainder of the land is undeveloped riparian corridor providing wildlife habitat and passive recreational activities such as hiking, bird watching and photography. Upon completion of this transaction, the DFG will take back a Conservation Easement Deed assuring perpetual protection and maintenance of the habitat and improvements and precluding further, more intense development. A portion of the Board funded improvements were provided from a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant administered by the State Department of Parks and Recreation for the National Park Service (NPS). Pursuant to the terms of the grant, transfer of the property to the FRRPD will be subject to the approval by the NPS and will require that all improvements and public access on the site be continued in perpetuity. Staff of the Board has requested approval under the grant to transfer the property to FRRPD and is working with DPR staff to complete all requirements.

The County site is upland grasslands habitat, including at least one vernal pool. The property is next to several developed rural residential parcels. DFG ownership and management will mean that the habitat is protected from any similar future development and assure the integrity of the surrounding landscape, which is DFG-owned on three sides. The DFG has highly recommended the exchange and has requested that staff of the Board assist with the project.

The properties have been appraised and those appraisals have been approved by the State Department of General Services (DGS). The State-owned 100± acres have been valued at \$180,000.00, while the FRRPD-owned 70± acre parcel has a fair market value of \$82,000.00. The FRRPD has agreed to pay the \$98,000.00 difference in cash, in four installments spanning the course of one year from close of escrow. Payments received from the FRRPD will be deposited in the Wildlife Restoration Fund. Acquisition-related costs to be borne by the State in the exchange including the premium for title insurance on the acquisition property, escrow fees, and appraisal review charges by the DGS, totaling approximately \$5,000.00, will be paid in escrow from the proceeds the State is to receive from FRRPD. Although the Board will pay for the costs, there will be no allocation of Board funds.

The proposed exchange project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15313, Class 13, as an acquisition of lands for fish and wildlife conservation purposes, and Section 15325, Class 25, as a transfer of an ownership interest in land to preserve open space. Subject to approval by the Board, a Notice of Exemption will be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

Staff recommends that the Wildlife Conservation Board approve this

exchange as proposed; authorize staff to enter into the appropriate agreements necessary to accomplish this project; and authorize staff and the Department of Fish and Game to proceed substantially as planned.

8. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (Presentation), Yolo County

Informational

The Department of Fish and Game will provide information on the 15,830± acre Yolo Bybass Wildlife Area, located in the north Delta within the Yolo Basin, a historically significant wetland area in California's Central Valley, 5± miles southeast of the City of Davis, in Yolo County.

The Wildlife Conservation Board's (WCB) initial acquisition of 3,100± acres in 1991 began a process that has created one of the largest and most visited wildlife areas in the state. Now nearly 16,000 acres in size, the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area provides habitat for thousands of migrating birds and resident wetland-dependent species, demonstrating how farming, grazing and wildlife can thrive together, offering educational programs to local schools through the Yolo Basin Foundation and providing recreational opportunities to thousands of nature lovers, hunters and anglers. The WCB helped fund many of the restoration projects on the area, and has also leveraged funds from the North American Wetland Conservation Council to fund additional habitat restoration projects.

The Wildlife Area is a complex of permanent, semi-permanent, and seasonal wetlands, as well as a complex of vernal pools and associated grasslands which provide benefits to a large variety of waterfowl and wetland-dependent species, including northern pintails, northern shovelers, long-billed dowitchers, red-winged blackbirds, and giant garter snakes. These habitats complement each other in many ways and are managed on a landscape-level by a dedicated staff to provide food, cover, and water for thousands of sensitive species to live and thrive, and for the public to enjoy.

The presentation will provide an update and summary of acquisitions and restoration projects that the WCB has been involved with on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, as well as future plan, including the proposed Pacific Flyway Center.

9. Closed Session

The Board may meet in closed executive session pursuant to California Government Code Section 11126(e)(1) to discuss pending litigation, *Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley v. California Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Conservation Board, et al.*, Riverside County, Fourth District Court of Appeal, Case No. E045894 (Riverside County Superior Court Case No. RIC477696) (California Environmental Quality Act).